

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-24 and 26-31 are pending in this application. Claims 24, 26 and 28-31 are currently withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 24 are amended to define the present claimed subject matter. The amendments to claim 1 and 24 are supported at least by page 15, lines 1-15 of the original specification. Claims 7 and 11 are amended to conform to U.S. claim practice. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

I. Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Baumstein at the interview held January 21, 2010, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

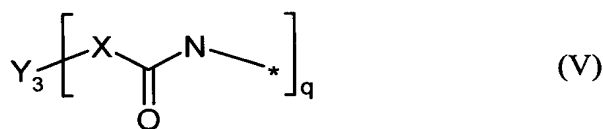
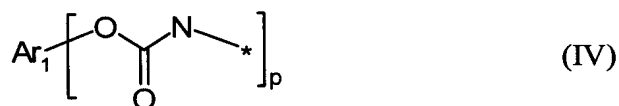
II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**A. Claims 1-17, 19-23 And 27**

Claims 1-17, 19-23 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,740,192 ("Lu") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,486,556 ("Kordomenos") and U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0007003 ("Merz"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In the Final Rejection, the Patent Office alleges that (1) the polyol adduct product used in Reaction 2 of Lu would have an aromatic terminal group due to the presence of the aromatic starter compound 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenylpropane and (2) upon reaction (illustrated below) of the polyol adduct product with a diisocyanate, this aromatic terminal group would form the aromatic urethane moiety recited in the present claims. See Final Rejection, page 8. In other words, the Patent Office's position rests on the premise that the polyol adduct product of Reaction 2 of Lu has an aromatic terminal group.

During the interview, Applicants' representative argued, as discussed in the Request for Reconsideration After Final Rejection ("RRAFR") filed December 28, 2009, that "Reaction 1" and "Reaction 2" of Lu each do not form the structural element of Formula IV in claim 1. Specifically, Applicants' representative argued that (1) the reaction of a phenol-formaldehyde resin and the alkylene oxide (i.e., Reaction 1) does not form an aromatic terminal group and (2) the polyol product of Reaction 2 does not contain an aromatic terminal group.

In view of Examiner Baumstein's suggestion during the interview, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the polyurethane prepolymer of the polymer **B** simultaneously has the structural elements of the formulae (IV) and (V)



in which p is 2, 3 or 4; q is 2, 3 or 4; X is S, O or NH; Ar₁ is a p-valent, optionally substituted, aromatic moiety, wherein the aromatic moiety is directly bound to the urethane groups; Y₃ is a q-valent moiety of an isocyanate-reactive polymer after removal of the terminal amino, thiol or hydroxyl groups; and * is the linkage point to the remainder of the polyurethane prepolymer, as recited in claim 1.

In other words, amended claim 1 recites that the Y₁ n-valent moiety of the polyurethane prepolymer B has a structural unit comprised of of a "p-valent aryl moiety" (Ar₁ of Formula (IV)) directly bound via urethane groups.

As acknowledged by Examiner Baumstein during the interview, the chemical formulas obtained from Reaction 1 and Reaction 2 of Lu do not describe a polyurethane prepolymer having this feature.

Kordomenos and Merz do not remedy the deficiencies of Lu. Kordomenos was introduced as allegedly describing the reaction of product of the epoxide adduct (A) and Merz was introduced as allegedly describing a thixotropic agent. However, neither Kordomenos nor Merz describe the structural element of Formula IV in claim 1.

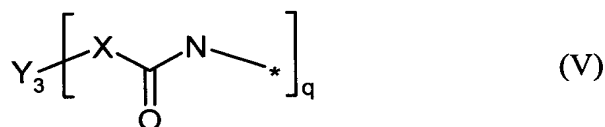
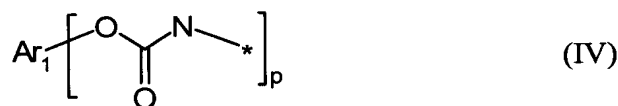
As such, Kordomenos and Merz alone or in combination with Lu would not have provided one of ordinary skill in the art with any reason or rationale to have produced polymer B of claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

B. Claim 18

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lu in view of Kordomenos and Merz, and in further view of WO 02/48235 ("Kaji"). The Patent Office used U.S. Patent No. 6,903,180 as an English-language equivalent of Kaji. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

For the above reasons, Lu, Kordomenos and Merz would not have rendered the present claims obvious. Kaji also does not remedy the deficiencies of these references. Kaji was merely introduced to describe dicyandiamide as a curing agent. However, Kaji does not describe that the polyurethane prepolymer of the polymer **B** simultaneously has the structural elements of the formulae (IV) and (V)



in which p is 2, 3 or 4; q is 2, 3 or 4; X is S, O or NH; Ar₁ is a p-valent, optionally substituted, aromatic moiety, wherein the aromatic moiety is directly bound to the urethane groups; Y₃ is a q-valent moiety of an isocyanate-reactive polymer after removal of the terminal amino, thiol or hydroxyl groups; and * is the linkage point to the remainder of the polyurethane prepolymer, as recited in claim 1.

As such, Lu, Kordomenos, Merz and Kaji alone or in combination, would not have provided one of ordinary skill in the art with any reason or rationale to have produced polymer B in claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

C. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections.

III. Rejoinder

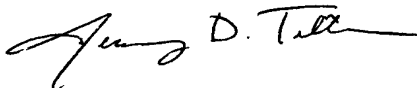
In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully request that upon allowance of claims 1-11, 13-23, 27 and 32, claims 24-26 and 28-31 be rejoined with the present application and similarly allowed.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11, 13-24 and 26-31 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jeremy D. Tillman
Registration No. 62,639

JAO:JDT/hs

Date: January 25, 2010

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry of this filing; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--